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TOT: 300531Z JUN 88

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BRIEF 300530Z
TO: MEA BRIEF.

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF OCPAS MEA FOR 30 JUNE 1988.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: APR 2004

1. IRAN-IRAQ: SITUATION REPORT

MILITARY ACTIVITY

ALL THE IRAQI ARMORED FORCES THAT OCCUPIED IRANIAN TERRITORY IN LAST WEEKEND'S MAJNOON OFFENSIVE HAVE RETURNED TO IRAQI TERRITORY. IRANIAN FORCES IN THE NORTHERN HAWR AL HAWIZAH APPEAR TO HAVE WITHDRAWN TO THEIR SIDE OF THE BORDER. TEHRAN WILL RECEIVE A UN DELEGATION TO INVESTIGATE ITS CLAIMS OF IRAQI CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE IN THE FIGHTING; THE DELEGATION WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE EUROPE YESTERDAY.

COMMENT: BAGHDAD CONTINUES TO CONSOLIDATE ITS GAINS IN THE HAWIZAH AND IS LIKELY TO REINFORCE ITS DEFENSIVE LINES WHILE UNITS INVOLVED IN THE RECENT FIGHTING ARE PULLED BACK INTO RESERVE. REPUBLICAN GUARD AND ARMORED UNITS MAY SOON BEGIN TRAINING FOR IRAQ'S NEXT ATTACK, PROBABLY IN THE PANJWIN-HALABJAH REGION IN

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NORTHEASTERN IRAQ. TEHRAN'S REQUEST FOR THE UN MISSION INDICATES THAT IT WILL KEEP TRYING TO FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON IRAQI'S USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THAT IT MAY HAVE EVIDENCE FROM THE RECENT FIGHTING. [REDACTED]

IRAQI CRITICISM OF THE US

IRAQI PRESIDENT SADDAM HUSAYN PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE US TUESDAY FOR PROVIDING IRAN WITH INTELLIGENCE ON IRAQI PREPARATIONS TO RECAPTURE THE MAJNOON ISLANDS. HE CHARGED THAT SOME OF THIS INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHY AND THAT THE PRESS, QUOTING US INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, PREDICTED THE ATTACK. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED IRAQI PRESS IS ALSO ATTACKING THE US FOR HOLDING A MEETING WITH IRAQI KURDISH REBEL LEADER JALAL TALABANI EARLIER THIS MONTH. THE IRAQIS ARE DEPICTING THIS AS EVIDENCE OF A SHIFT IN US SUPPORT TO IRAN NOW THAT BAGHDAD ENJOYS THE MILITARY EDGE. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: THE IRAQIS APPEAR TO BE CONCERNED THAT THE MEETING WITH TALABANI IS A WARNING NOT TO PRESS THEIR MILITARY ADVANTAGE TOO FAR. BAGHDAD HAS LONG RESENTED WHAT IT BELIEVES WAS US SUPPORT FOR THE IRANIAN- AND ISRAELI-BACKED KURDISH REBELLION IN THE MID-1970S THAT FORCED IRAQ TO ACCEPT A BORDER AGREEMENT WITH IRAN. SADDAM'S CRITICISM MAY ALSO BE INTENDED IN PART TO FLAUNT A VICTORY ACHIEVED DESPITE IRAN'S ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE OFFENSIVE. [REDACTED]

2. IN BRIEF

EUROPE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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